

TEN SOLDIER SONS.

The Remarkable Contribution of a Western Family to the Army.

A correspondent writes to the Herald: "In a recent issue of the Philadelphia Ledger is noticed an article entitled 'Seven Sons, All Soldiers.' I have personal knowledge of a case still more remarkable. Mrs. Elizabeth Upright, of Rockford, Iowa, sent eleven sons into the army and ten of them to war. I was in the same regiment (Seventy-fourth Illinois Infantry) with two of them. Their father's name was Merchant. The sons were:

"1. G. W. Merchant was a private, Company C, afterward a lieutenant, honorably discharged September 20, 1865. 2. Abel L. Merchant was a private, Company C, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteers, and died in the service. 3. Dewitt C. Merchant was a private in the last-named company, and was killed in action July 22, 1864. 4. Enoch Merchant was a corporal, Company F, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Illinois Volunteers, honorably discharged September 20, 1865. 5. David O. Merchant, private in Company C, Seventy-fourth Illinois Volunteers, honorably discharged June 10, 1865. 6. Silas B. Merchant was a private, Company G, Forty-fourth Illinois Volunteers, promoted to first lieutenant, and resigned September 25, 1864. 7. Arlo J. Merchant was a private in the last-named company, and honorably discharged September 25, 1864. 8. Lewis H. Merchant was a private in Company G, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteers, and honorably discharged September 26, 1864. 9. Aaron Merchant was a private in Company G, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, and was killed at Island No. 10 December 26, 1862 by the accidental discharge of a cannon. 10. James B. Merchant, teamster in the employ of the Quartermaster Department. 11. Norman M. Merchant enlisted March 3, 1873, as a private in Company B, United States Cavalry, and was discharged March 11, 1878, by reason of expiration of term of service. He again enlisted May 4, 1878, and was assigned to Battery B, Fourth Artillery.

"This is an extraordinary record and the more notable because neither the mother nor her sons sought either notoriety or recognition from the Government. The case was first brought to the notice of Congress in 1879 by the following letter from the Hon. George W. McCrary, then Secretary of War:

"WAR DEPARTMENT,

"WASHINGTON, February 11, 1879.
"To the Hon. N. C. Deering, House of Representatives:

"Sir: I have considered the petition of Mrs. Elizabeth Upright, of Butler County, Iowa, praying for the discharge from the military service of her son, N. M. Merchant, Battery B, Fourth Artillery, which petition was presented by you and is concurred in by numerous citizens. The discharge of this soldier is asked for by the petitioner, who says she is 74 years old, on the ground that she had ten sons in the Union army during the rebellion, including one employed as a teamster, and that the one above named, her eleventh and youngest son, has served for over five years in the regular army. She furnishes the names of her sons and a statement of the organizations in which they served.

"The papers having been referred to the Adjutant General for an examination of the records, with a view to verifying her statements, that officer reports that they are true in every particular. The discharge of this soldier will be ordered in accordance with his mother's request.

"Very respectfully your obedient servant,

"G. W. MCCRARY, Secretary of War.
"At the time of the enlistment of her ten sons she was a widow and lived at Winnebago, Ill. Afterward she married Morris J. Upright, an ex-sheriff and jailer at Rockford, Ill., and with him removed to Iowa."

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Pittsburg Dispatch.

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Evening World.
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